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From the Director Arnie Olsen

The holiday season is a time to reflect in gratitude over the past year. At the Montana Historical Society, despite some tough budget issues, we have quite a bit to be thankful for.

First, we are most thankful to all of you for your support. We are especially thankful to those of you who became new members or continued your membership in the Society last year. Because of you, and with your help, we continue the important work of preserving Montana's history.

We thank, too, those of you who toured our exhibits in 2004. We had an increase of 6 percent in our museum admissions this summer, which is an important source of our revenue. It was a difficult decision to begin charging admission to Montana's Museum three years ago, and we appreciate your understanding.

We are also thankful for the extensive number of donors who contributed to the Society over the past year. It is a source of joy for all of us to work with those who want to give something back to Montana. Monetary donations ranged from thousands of dollars, to young people placing change in the donation box in the lobby. We hope to increase planned giving opportunities in the future by working with our Montana History Foundation. Artifacts, photographs, and archival material donated included more than 300 Montana community cookbooks, homestead records, family photographs, and many other important documents that collectively tell the Montana story. As grateful as we are, we imagine people in the future will be even more so, for your gifts will touch generations to come.

In addition, we are thankful for our partner organizations in both the public and private sectors. Last year we increased the number of partnerships we engaged in to maximize the programs, exhibits, and events that we provide statewide. We worked with many new partners and made many new friends when we held our annual History Conference in Whitefish last October. We know that we get energy and renewed commitment when we work with others and that it helps us reach more people and do a better job of spreading the word about Montana history.

Along the same line, we are especially thankful for our volunteers and docents. More than 130 dedicated individuals volunteered at the Society this year, bolstering our programs and allowing us to provide continued services and public events. Their spirit and enthusiasm boosts us all and without them we could not do all the work we do.

Finally, we are thankful for Montana itself. It is an honor to serve this state and its visitors to work to preserve its rich history, and we are grateful for the opportunity to continue this work in the coming year.

Society Helps Celebrate Forest Service Centennial

In 2005, the United States Forest Service will celebrate a hundred years of service, and in addition to its regular programming, the Montana Historical Society has partnered with the Helena National Forest to recognize this significant milestone. The creation of the Forest Service initiated a century of change in managing public forests and grasslands, with introduction of a new conservation ethic and professional workforce to carry it forth.

Anniversary events kick off with a showing of the new Forest Service centennial film, "The Greatest Good: A Forest Service Centennial Film" at the Myrna Loy Center on February 17. Other events this spring include a March 18 visit by a re-enactor personifying Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the Forest Service; an April 7 presentation by Forest Service historian Gerry Williams, reflecting on the history of Forest Service through political cartoons; and an "Evening in the Elkhorns" on May 12, celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the Elkhorn Forest Reserve. (See calendar for details.)

The celebration will continue into the summer and fall, culminating in December 2005 with the opening of a special exhibit at the Society, "Splendid Was the Trail: Photographs of the National Forests by K.D. Swan."

Watch for more information, or contact 406-444-4789 for additional details.



A showing of The Greatest Good is one of several events planned this year to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the U.S. Forest Service.

Montana Boasts Five New National Register Listings

With help from the State Historic Preservation Office, Montana has five new listings in the National Register of Historic Places listings since August.

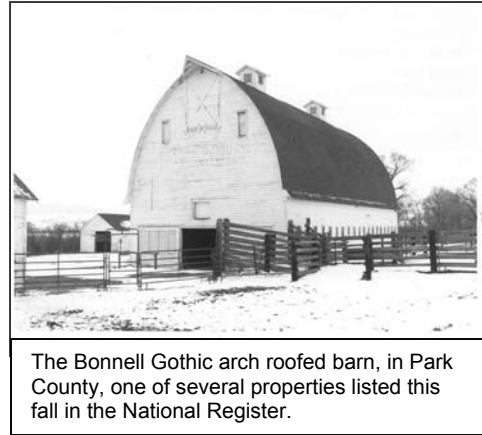
The largest of the five is the Great Falls Central Business Historic District, which includes ninety-nine contributing buildings, most constructed from 1910 to 1920. Displaying details from a long European and American architectural past, the eclectic Main Street commercial buildings provide testimony to the rise of Great Falls as the commercial, political, social, and economic center of north central Montana.

Built in 1922, the Oliver and Lucy Bonnell Gothic Arch Roofed Barn reflects the introduction of the dairying industry into the agricultural economic history of the Lower Shields Valley. The eighty-by-thirty-foot barn is an excellent local example of a Gothic Arched Barn and it continues to serve as a tangible reminder of Montana's agricultural heritage.

Eleven buildings were added to the Lewistown Satellite Airfield Historic District, increasing the historic district's boundary by approximately twenty-six acres. Located a mile southwest of Lewistown, the district is significant for its association with the nation's and the U.S. Army Air Corps' military build-up during World War II. The airfield was one of four facilities constructed for the U.S. Army Air Corps in Montana to train squadrons how to navigate the B-17 Flying Fortress and use the top secret Norden Bombsight.

The nationally significant OTO Homestead and Dude Ranch, ten miles northwest of Gardiner, was recognized for its historic association with the development of dude ranching, the "single most unique contribution of the Rocky Mountain West to the ever-growing national vacation industry." Owned by Dick Randall, "the Father of Montana Dude Ranching," the western-style accommodations advertised in OTO brochures played a large role in defining western culture and the promotion of the rustic style.

Also listed was the First Presbyterian Church of Whitefish. Built in 1921, the church is significant for its association with the social history of the community. A remarkable local example of Romanesque Revival ecclesiastical architecture, the church served not only as a place of worship, but also as a community meeting place, recreational center, education facility, and a base of operations for the congregation's considerable service work.



Historians Honored by Montana Historical Society

A Carbon County woman and two teachers from Helena were honored at the Montana History Conference in Whitefish by the Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees. The awards recognized their lifelong dedication to preserving Montana history and heritage and passing it on to future generations. Also at the conference the Society's journal, *Montana The Magazine of Western History*, awarded its annual Paladin and Burlingame-Toole awards.

Shirley Zupan of Red Lodge received the 2004 Trustees Award for more than thirty years of contributions to the preservation of Carbon County's historical records, buildings, and memories. Zupan was among the first to recognize that her community was in danger of losing its past as it moved into a future that no longer relied on mining and other local industries for their livelihoods. In the early 1970s Zupan, a Red Lodge businesswoman and high school teacher, spearheaded the creation of the Carbon County Historical Society. Largely due to her efforts, the integrity of the downtown section of the community and most of its buildings were preserved and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Together with Harry Owens, Zupan also researched, authored, and edited the authoritative Carbon County local history volume. Among her other achievements were writing weekly columns for the *Carbon County News*, developing a walking tour of the community, and getting a historic preservation officer hired by the town.

Retired Central Elementary School teachers Maureen Redfield and Jan Pepin received the Trustee's Award for Educational Excellence. The pair were honored for more than a decade of collaboration at Central School in Helena that "broke down classroom walls and immersed students in their historical surroundings." Creating a curriculum that involves students in the history of their own community, the teachers worked with former Society Education Officer Joan Haefer, Chere Jiusto of the Society State Historic Preservation Office, and Society Interpretive Historian Ellen Baumler in the 1990s to develop a walking tour of historic buildings and sites near the school.

They used historic photographs from the Society collections to allow comparison of local scenes now and then. The tradition continued after Redfield and Pepin retired, and in 2003 Baumler worked with teachers Nancy Robinson and Karen Sturm to develop a booklet based on the course. That booklet, titled *Camp to Capital*, was distributed to every third-grade class in Helena and is a lasting legacy to the initial efforts of Redfield and Pepin. It has become a model across the state and in other parts of the nation for similar efforts to teach young people about their local history and heritage.

The Society's publications program awarded the Paladin Award to William Farr, associate director of the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West in Missoula, for his two-part article, "Going to Buffalo: Indian Hunting Migrations Across the Rocky Mountains." Named in honor of Vivian Paladin, who helped put the magazine on the national history map as editor during the 1960s and 1970s, the award is given annually by the magazine's editorial board for the best article published in *Montana The Magazine of Western History*.

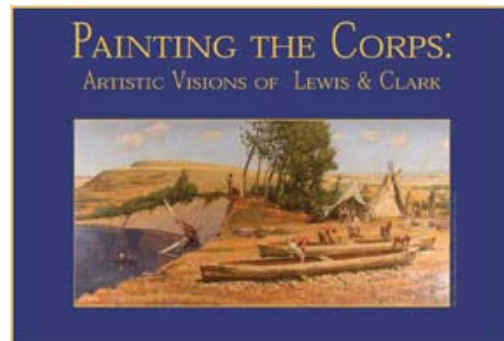
The publications program also awarded its Burlingame-Toole Prize for the best student essay submitted to the magazine in 2004. That award went to Garrit Voggeser for "Redeeming

Animal Ecological Capital: Hunting, Fishing, and Wildlife on the Blackfeet, Flathead, and Fort Peck Reservations, 1900-1940.”

History Happenings

New cabinetry will greatly aid the Society’s Research Center in **properly caring for its collections**. In October the Montana State Library donated five microfilm cabinets to the Research Center, a donation valued at approximately \$7,500. These cabinets will be used to store master copies of newspaper microfilm in the Society’s off-site facility at the Scriver Center. In addition, the Research Center recently purchased five new custom-built cabinets with funds donated by the August and Mary Sobotka Education Trust Fund, Ivan and Carol Doig, Bob Hemstreet, Theodore Collins, and the estate of John C. Witte. Mergenthaler Transfer and Storage provided transportation for these cabinets from Chicago to Helena at a greatly reduced cost. The cabinets include two specially engineered, air-tight locking cabinets for the Research Center’s rarest and most valuable books and three similarly custom-designed map cabinets that will house its most valuable architectural drawings, maps, and large color plates.

In January, Montana’s Museum will premiere the latest in a series of exhibits mounted in observance of the bicentennial of Thomas Jefferson’s Corps of Discovery. Titled ***Painting the Corps: Artistic Visions of Lewis and Clark***, this show will provide a colorful look at how artists have depicted this pivotal event in American history. The exhibit will include both contemporary works created expressly for *Painting the Corps* and historical works from the museum’s permanent collection. Don Prechtel—who is widely noted for his expertise in art relating to military history—helped organize the show by recruiting eight of his colleagues as contributors. An artists’ reception will be held next August during the Western Rendezvous of Art.



Two notable citizens of the Treasure State—Father Anthony Ravalli, S.J., and Dorothy M. Johnson—are slated for induction this spring into the Montana State Capitol’s ***Gallery of Outstanding Montanans***. Ravalli (1812–1884), a much-loved missionary and physician, was selected for his “lifetime of devotion and humanitarianism.” Johnson (1905–1984)—who authored *The Hanging Tree*, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, and *A Man Called Horse*—is being recognized for her contributions to the fields of literature and journalism. The two will be honored in an induction ceremony that will be held in the Capitol rotunda on Wednesday March 16 at 3:00 p.m. Earlier that day, at noon, MSU-Billings Professor Sue Hart will discuss the life of Dorothy M. Johnson as part of the Society’s March Lecture Series. (See Calendar for details.)

The Montana Historical Society and the City of Helena Civic Center Board have split the \$61,000 proceeds from this year’s **Western Rendezvous of Art** thanks to the patrons who set new records for attendance during the four-day event. The Society will use its \$30,500 share for new art acquisition, including new paintings by noted Blackfeet artist Gary Schildt that will be used in the Society’s upcoming exhibit, “Neither Empty Nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark.”

The Meagher Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians raised \$9,000 for **restoration of the equestrian statue of Territorial Governor Thomas Francis Meagher**, which stands on the front lawn of the Montana State Capitol. Their donation will be matched by a like amount from funds dedicated to caring for artwork on the Capitol grounds, a responsibility of the Montana

Historical Society. A preliminary assessment of the statue, cleaning, and application of protective wax coating was completed this summer. During careful inspection, it was discovered that several pieces of the statue were missing or severely damaged. Those are now being researched and recreated, with completion of the project set for early next summer in time for the commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the dedication of the Meagher statue.

Fall is always a busy time at the Society for our **volunteers**. Among many other activities, they assisted with mailings and assembled packets for the annual history conference. Docents have also been attending the new docent in-service meetings conducted the second Monday of each month by Deb Mitchell of the Education office. If you are interested in joining the Friends, contact Delight Sullivan at 406-444-9553.

For the second year in a row, Society staff and volunteers designed a Christmas tree, sponsored by Jeff Lovely, for the **2004 Festival of Trees**. The Festival of Trees is a fundraiser for the Intermountain Children's Home. Friends of the Society came together for an old-fashioned quilting bee to sew ornaments for the tree, which was decorated with handmade red cross quilted squares and a handsome lap quilt underneath. A quilt in the Society's collection inspired the design. That quilt was created in 1918 by the Great Falls Ladies Auxiliary of United Commercial Travelers as a fundraiser for the Red Cross.



Staff and volunteers pose in front of the Christmas tree they decorated for the 2004 Festival of Trees. Tom Ferris, Photographer

The Society has a new radio program called **History Half-notes** airing Monday through Friday following the national news on Helena radio station KCAP, 1340 AM at 8:00 a.m. Interpretive historian Ellen Baumler has thus far written and recorded sixty ninety-second scripts. The short notes include myriad topics about people, places, and events of local historical interest. *History Half-notes* began airing in October 2004. KCAP is a corporate member of the Montana Historical Society.

On Thursday, January 20, the State Historic Preservation Office will host the **2005 Preservation Awards Ceremony** in Helena. This special event will draw together many unsung heroes who have dedicated themselves to preserving the best of our collective past, including those owners who have listed their properties in the National Register during the past two years. The Preservation Awards ceremony will be followed by a reception at the Montana Historical Society. For further information, please contact Kate Hampton, National Register Coordinator, at kahampton@state.mt.us or 406-444-3647.



Society Interpretive Historian Ellen Baumler during an interview for the History Channel's *Save Our History* series. Photo courtesy The History Channel

Producers of the **History Channel** of Arts and Entertainment Television interviewed MHS interpretive historian Ellen Baumler for an episode of the *Save Our History* series on Gold Rush Ghost Towns. Baumler traveled to Nevada City for the interview in October. Several weeks of preparation and an hour and a half in front of the camera will result in a few seconds on the special gold rush segment filmed in Nevada City, Virginia City, Bannack, Garnet, and Marysville as well as Bodie, California. The episode is due to air in June 2005.

The **Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation** of Missoula continued its long-standing partnership with the Montana Historical Society at the 2004 History Conference. The Foundation again underwrote two student sessions at the gathering: "Showcasing University History Scholars" and "Showcasing Tribal College History Scholars." Presenters had all of their expenses to the conference covered, and each received a \$500 "scholarship for historical excellence" from the Foundation. Presenting at the two sessions were Jed Waller, Carroll College, Helena; Diane Smith, Montana State University, Bozeman; Charlie Presti, University of Montana, Missoula; Lola Doore, Blackfeet Community College, Browning; Valerie Denny, Stone Child College, Rocky Boy Agency; and Martin Charlo, Salish Kootenai College, Pablo.

The spring issue of *Montana The Magazine of Western History* will include articles on Buffalo Bill Cody and the price he paid for taking the scalp of Yellow Hair; the controversy over kayaking in Yellowstone National Park; and the polio epidemic that terrorized Montana for thirty-nine consecutive summers. Subscribe on-line (<https://app.discoveringmontana.com/mhsmembers/>) or by calling 1-800-243-9900.

Community Preservation Coordinator **Rolene Schliesman** and Historic Architecture Specialist **Pete Brown** have successfully fulfilled two years of service as preservation professionals in the Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office. Effective November 4, 2004, they join Stan Wilmoth, Josef Warhank, and Kate Hampton as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officers under Mark Baumler, the Montana State Historic Preservation Officer. Congratulations Pete and Rolene!

Dennis Homer recently retired as Chief of Security after twenty-four years of service to the Montana Historical Society. **John Ashmore** was selected in October as the new Chief of Security, bringing to the position over thirty-four years of experience in security systems and management.

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office participated in two exciting meetings in Butte and Virginia City to discuss creation of a National Heritage Area, a Congressional designation that recognizes cohesive, nationally distinctive landscapes. To further conversation, SHPO is now offering a new communications tool, the **Heritage Area list-serve**. The list-serve will be dedicated to furthering Heritage Area(s) development and is free to subscribers. Subscribers may post meeting arrangements, minutes, discussion topics, ideas, concerns, announcements, and all other Heritage Area business. If you or others you know are interested in participating on the new Heritage Area list-serve, please send your email address to Rolene Schliesman at rschliesman@mt.gov with a request to be included on the list-serve.

All **e-mail addresses** at the Society have changed to reflect the new state domain name, "mt.gov". To contact anyone at the Society, please substitute "mt.gov" for "state.mt.us" in the old e-mail address.

Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all of the programs are **free, open to the public, and held 6:30 p.m.** at the Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts.

January 6: "Too Poor to Move: But Always Rich." Jim Sargent, Helen Pedula, and Louie Strand recreate life on a dry-land Montana ranch from the 1910s through the 1950s. Book signing to follow.

*January 13: **A Conversation with the Artists.*** Join Western Rendezvous of Art founders Bob Morgan and Newman Myrah for a conversation about their artwork and, if time permits, a short tour through the Society's new exhibit, "Painting the Corps: Artistic Visions of Lewis and Clark."

*January 27: **Pages in History, Readers Forum.*** *Perma Red*, by Debra Magpie Earling. Discussion facilitated by Helena High School English teacher Joe Anderson

*February 3: **Their Minds were Poisoned: Northwest Montana and the 1917 IWW Timber Strike.*** Historical Society Reference Historian Rich Aarstad describes the dramatic strike and its effects on Northwestern Montana.

*February 10: **Shep, Faithful Dog?*** Former Society Research Center Director Bob Clark talks about one of the most famous dogs in Montana.

*February 17, 7:00 p.m.: **"The Greatest Good: A Forest Service Centennial Film."*** Two-hour feature length movie, framing the epic story of the struggle to manage the nation's resources, serves as a kick-off to the Forest Service Centennial Celebration. *Myrna Loy Center, Helena*

*February 24: **Pages in History, Readers Forum.*** *Wide Open Town*, by Myron Brinig.

*March 3: **Discovering Churchill: A Montana Family Remembered.*** Researcher Jennifer Jeffries Thompson recreates the history of the Churchill family through the items they left behind.

*March 10: **Photographic Treasures in the Montana Historical Society's Collection.*** Photograph Archives Supervisor Lory Morrow highlights notable photographs in the Society's holdings and discusses the ways that historical images educate, enlighten, and entertain modern viewers.

*March 16, 3:00 p.m.: **Gallery of Outstanding Montanans Induction*** of Father Anthony Ravalli (1812–1884) and Dorothy M. Johnson (1905–1984). *Capitol Rotunda*

*March 17: **"Montana Justice."*** MSU-Billings Professor Keith Edgerton describes the early days of the Montana State Penitentiary under a corrupt warden. Book signing to follow.

*March 18, 7:00 p.m.: **Gifford Pinchot.*** Re-enactor Gary Hines performs a one-act, one-person play in the character of the first chief of the Forest Service. *Colonial Inn, Helena*

*March 24: **The Saga of the Mandan: the REEL Story.*** Jennifer Bottomly O'Looney discusses a Montana state treasure, the keelboat *Mandan*, which was featured in the 1943 RKO movie *The Big Sky*.

*March 31: **Pages in History, Readers Forum.*** *Counting Coup*, by Larry Colton

*April 7, 7:00 p.m.: **Forest Service History Reflected through Political Cartoons.*** USDA Forest Service Historian Gerry Williams presents the history of the Forest Service through a unique and revealing lens. *Myrna Loy Center, Helena*

*May 12, 7:00 p.m.: **Evening in the Elkhorns.*** The program will celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the Elkhorn Forest Reserve with a Theodore Roosevelt re-enactor, lecture, and art show. *Myrna Loy Center, Helena*

March Lecture Series

The Friends of the Society annually sponsor the March Lecture Series as their primary fundraiser for the year. Tickets are \$5.00 per lecture or \$20.00 for the entire series. For more information, contact Delight Sullivan at 406-444-9553.

All lectures will be held **Wednesdays at noon** in the Society's Boo Auditorium. No food or drink is allowed in the auditorium.

March 2: Life as a First Lady. Betty Babcock, who served as Montana's first lady from 1962 to 1969, will share stories from her time in the governor's mansion.

March 9: TBA

March 16: Dorothy M. Johnson. MSU-Billings Professor Sue Hart will discuss the life and work of this noted Montana author, who will be inducted into the Gallery of Outstanding Montanans at a 3:00 p.m. ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda.

March 23: TBA

March 30: TBA

Hours

Montana's Museum

Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. Closed Sundays. Museum may have additional hours during the legislative session. \$5.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student, \$12.00 per family

Museum Store

Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. No admission fee.

Research Center

Library and Archives: Tuesdays-Fridays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holiday weekends. No admission fee.

Photograph Archives: Tuesdays-Fridays, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. Closed weekends, Mondays, and holidays. No admission fee.

Capitol Guided Tours

Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Last tour begins at 2:00 p.m. Self-guided tour brochures available at the security desk on the first floor upon request. Call 406-444-4789 for reservations.

Original Governor's Mansion

Through April 30

Saturday only, 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Tours begin on the hour. \$4.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student, \$10.00 per family. Groups call 406-444-4789 for reservations.